SEGMENTAL PHONEMES

200. There are thirty-six segmental phonemes, of which thirty are consonants and six are vowels. In addition, vowel length /•/--a prosodic phoneme lacking any inherent phonetic feature, but functioning like a segmental phoneme (in distribution)--is distinguished from the suprasegmental phonemes for that reason. Four phonemes of very rare occurrence--three consonants and one vowel--are anomalous within this system. The anomalous borrowed vowel /æ/ occurs in only one loan word. Of the consonants, /f/ and /ǰ/ are rare and were recently borrowed, and /θ/ occurred only in the idiolect of C.D., my main informant, and is elsewhere represented by /λ/ in the speech of other Wintu. While the four anomalous phonemes are marginal to the core phonemic system, /θ/ appears to have a system internal origin motivated morphophonemically, occurring only as the result of a rule which simplifies final consonant clusters. That /θ/ should appear in the speech of C.D. most probably has a sociolinguistic basis in the fact of her being the granddaughter of (and youthful co-resident with) the last chief of the McCloud speech community of Wintu.

Segmental Phonemes

Consonant Phonemes

	Labial	Apical	Palatal	Velar	Post-velar	Glottal
Stops						
unaspirated	p	t		k	q	ʔ
aspirated	p^h	t^h				
glottalized	p̓	t̓		k̓	q̓	
voiced	b	d				
Spirants						
voiceless		λ	s	x	χ	h
Affricates						
voiceless			c			
glottalized		λ̓	c̓			
Sonorants						
oral	w	l r	y			
nasal	m	n				
Anomalous	f	θ	ǰ			

Vowel Phonemes

	Front	Central	Back
High	i		u
Mid	e		o
Low		a	
Anomalous	æ		

Nonsegmental Phoneme

vowel length /·/

Suprasegmental Phonemes

junctures /+/ /-/ /,/ /./
phrasal accent /´/

Pitkin, Harvey. 1984. Wintu Grammar.
Berkeley: Univ. California Press.